

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The residential and recycling pickup schedule for Jan. 28, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.



Outgoing mail time changes

Effective Jan. 20, due to staffing changes at the U.S. Post Office, building 2201, outgoing mail will be accepted until 2:30 p.m. Outgoing mail will leave at 3:20 p.m. Outgoing accountable mail will be signed for after the outgoing mail leaves.

For more information, call Al Van Kleeck, postmaster, 410-278-7967.

Wanted: Story ideas on Year of NCO

In order to showcase the year of the noncommissioned officer, the APG News is looking for story ideas to publish. Anyone with a suggestion should call the editor, Debi Horne, 410-278-1150.

New KUSAHC policies

The Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic has expanded its hours to be more convenient to patients. KUSAHC is now open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, to include Thursday training time and the lunch hour.

KUSAHC's child care policy has been modified to accommodate patients who have to bring their child with them to their appointment. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted to be left unattended in the waiting area.

KUSAHC encourages patients to make child care arrangements before their appointment and provides vouchers for the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center.

AFAP conference postponed

The installation's annual Army Family Action Program conference, which was originally scheduled for Jan. 27 through 29, has been postponed to a date that is yet to be determined.

Col. Jeffrey S. Weissman, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander said this year the installation's AFAP conference will closely coincide with the Department of the Army's AFAP conference.

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Pentagon Channel introduces new program

APG supports historic Obama train ride



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON, APG NEWS

President-elect Barack Obama and Vice-President-elect Joseph Biden wave from the inaugural train as it passes through the Edgewood Train Station Jan. 17. A huge, flag-waving crowd was on hand to witness the passing of the historic Whistle-Stop Tour through Harford County.

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Elements of Aberdeen Proving Ground played a crucial role in supporting the historic Whistle-Stop train ride of President-elect Barack Obama as it passed through Harford County and areas bordering the installation including the Edgewood Train Station.

Along with surrounding law enforcement entities, the APG Directorate of Emergency Services was peripherally involved in security and safety operations in accordance with requests for support from the Secret Service, according to Robert Krauer, DES director.

"Specifically, they were concerned with the APG boundaries," Krauer said. "We provided limited support requested by the Secret Service, primarily in the areas where the train traversed along our boundaries."

In addition to law enforcement personnel, APG emergency medical personnel also supported the operation.

One Secret Service concern was that APG, due to its location, was strategically available to provide "a true safe haven" in the event of an emergency, Krauer said, noting that the one side of the Edgewood train station, where the train rolled slowly through as more than 2,000 people greeted a smiling and waving Obama and Vice-President elect Joe Biden, is bordered by the APG Edgewood Area.

A multitude of Harford County law enforcement officers were on hand at the site providing security, including Harford County Sheriff deputies, Bel Air police officers and Maryland State troopers and Secret Service personnel.

"It's an interesting time for the country, and it was a once-in-a-lifetime event for many folks," Krauer said. "DES was simply on hand for support if needed. We were happy to support it."

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band's jazz combo, led by Staff Sgt. Eddy Nubine provided musical entertainment for the event. (More on this in next week's APG News.)

TRICARE Reserve Select rings in the new year with lower premiums for healthcare coverage

U.S. DoD Military Health System

National Guard and Reserve Families are ringing in the new year with exceptional savings on their healthcare coverage.

The monthly premiums for TRICARE Reserve Select member coverage officially dropped Jan. 1 by 42 percent, from \$81 to \$47.51. TRS member-and-Family coverage dropped 29 percent, from \$253 to \$180.17.

In response to the 2009

National Defense Authorization Act, section 704, TRICARE analyzed Reserve Select costs from 2006 and 2007 and adjusted TRS premium rates for 2009.

"TRS premiums are billed a month in advance, so members started seeing reductions in early December, 2008," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. "This is good timing considering these challenging

economic times."

"TRS offers an opportunity for our members and Families to have comprehensive, affordable healthcare coverage," said Col. Marty Wong, head of the joint Family program for the National Guard Bureau. "This is great news."

Granger also noted the benefits of purchasing coverage in the relatively new health plan open to qualified members of the Selected Reserve.

"TRS has only been

around since 2005," he said. "Now is one of the best times in the short history of TRS to sign up and start receiving healthcare benefits."

The TRS program was greatly streamlined in October 2007. Since then, the number of members has more than doubled.

"TRS covered about thirty-five thousand National Guard and Reserve members and Families in late 2007," Granger said. "Now we have over eighty

thousand."

TRS delivers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard and Extra to qualified members who purchase the coverage and pay monthly premiums. TRS also features continuously open enrollment.

To qualify, candidates must be members of the Selected Reserve and cannot be enrolled in or eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefits program. For instance,

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DES members to take the Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 24

Story by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

For the 13th year the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge will be held at Sandy Point Park in Annapolis and for the first time, Aberdeen Proving Ground emergency and law enforcement personnel will participate in the program that benefits the Special Olympics of Maryland.

Each year, plunge participants take a quick dip in the Chesapeake Bay to raise funds for SOMD, the state's largest year-round organization devoted to sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Leading the donation efforts by the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Polar Bears is Community Policing Officer Mike "Big Mike" Farlow. APG police officer Jeremy Rondone and fire inspector Doug Farrington championed Big Mike's efforts by encouraging fire and police participation for the event.

So far, the team has 20 volunteers and funds raised have surpassed \$1,400, said Farlow.

For several years, Farlow has coordinated participation with the annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. Farlow said DES has never participated as a team in the MSP Polar Bear Plunge.

"My two children, Nate and Micaela, were kind enough to point out that I looked more like a polar bear than a runner," Farlow said. "That's when I decid-

ed to request permission to start a team."

Team members include police officers, detectives, Police Academy and S.W.A.T staff members and firefighters and inspectors.

"We plan to have a great time and show the APG community that their emergency services are working together to make great things happen," Farlow said.

Proceeds from the MSP Polar Bear Plunge help 10,000 SOMD children and adults with intellectual disabilities experience life-changing benefits through participation in the organization's year-round training and competition programs — all at no cost to them or their Families.

Portions of the 2009 MSP Polar Bear Plunge will be aired live on local TV networks. According to the SOMD Web site, special guests will include Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco and Maryland governor Martin O'Malley. Check TV listings or visit <http://www.somd.org> for more information.

DES

The Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security has been renamed the Directorate of Emergency Services. DES Director Robert Krauer embraced the creation of a combined fire and police team.

"This is a perfect example of what the community can expect from these two great organizations working together as a team," Krauer said. "It's an excellent start to the new marriage under the DES banner."

MLK commemorative prayer breakfast emphasizes service

Story by
RACHEL PONDER
APG News

Members of the Aberdeen Proving Ground community gathered together for a commemorative prayer breakfast at Top of the Bay Jan. 14 to pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy.

Lt. Col. Casmere Taylor, chief of staff, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, served as emcee. He said the theme of the breakfast was "A day on, not a day off; remember, celebrate and act."

"Dr. King was consistent in his overall message of change for equality," Taylor said. "He believed in freedom and justice for all. He encouraged all citizens to

live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principals of nonviolence to make this country a better place to live."

Entertainment was provided by Claudia Coleman, Civilian Personnel Operations Center, who performed an inspirational dance to two gospel songs.

"I performed 'Never Would Have Made It' and 'We Fall Down,'" Coleman said. "I came up with the dance routines to express the words and emotions conveyed in the songs. Dance is a form of expression for me, similar to how people express themselves with sign language."

Staff Sgt. Eddy Nubine, a gospel jazz musician with the 389th

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Southside Grill opens to huge crowd

Story and photo by
YVONNE JOHNSON
APG News

Employees and Soldiers of Aberdeen Proving Ground enjoyed complimentary dishes and good music while celebrating the grand opening of the Edgewood Area's new eatery, the Southside Grill Jan. 14.

Located in the Stark Recreation Center, the Southside Grill is situated in the former snack bar area of the center. Along with an eye-appealing renovation to the facility, the grill features a southwestern fare menu of chicken and beef quesadillas and fajitas, regular and hot wings, fish and chicken filets and chicken tenders. Condiments include fresh-chopped tomato, onion and pepper salsa, Jalapeño peppers, sour cream, melted cheese, soft and hard taco

shells, cut-up beef and ground beef and chicken, available for guests at no charge.

Dave Brewner, Southside Grill manager, said the new menu items were added to increase the lunch-time options of the area's civilian population.

"The biggest advantage is that this is the only food court available on post, and it gives more choices for those who don't want to go off post," Brewner said.

"Everything here is prepared fresh daily and is available to eat in or to go," added lead cook Fay Christy who with 29-years service on APG, personally prepared all the food.

Approximately 400 guests enjoyed the day's fare including Maj. Gen. Paul Izzo, commander of APG and the U.S. Army

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